mythical figure. St. Henry, on the other hand, is a historical figure, and no doubt suffered the death of a martyr during his missionary excursions. He became the patron saint of Finland, and several churches were built to commemorate his deeds.

The conversion was carried on among the other tribes by monks and native missionaries, but in distant regions paganism prevailed until the days of the reformation. There is some indication that the first attempts to convert the Finns came from the East, from the Greek Catholic Church; for instance, words like cross, Bible, pagan, and priest have been taken into Finnish from a Slavic language, but this Eastern influence soon waned. At the beginning of the thirteenth century the whole of Russia, except